

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

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O 131600Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2565

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 11672

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS REPORTS ON POSSIBLE US-PCI DIALOGUE

REF: A) ROME 11473 B) ROME 11479

SUMMARY: INTERVIEW GIVEN BY COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS EXECUTIVE NAGORSKI TO LEFT LEANING WEEKLY HAS SPARKED NEW WAVE OF PRESS SPECULATION ON POSSIBILITIES FOR NEW US-PCI DIALOGUE IN CONTEXT OF VISITS TO US BY COMMUNIST PARTY FUNCTIONARIES. LEFTIST PRESS CONTINUING TO ECHO IL MONDO ARTICLE (REF A) ALLEGING THAT AMBASSADOR VOLPE IS TO BE WITHDRAWN BECAUSE OF HIS ANTI-COMMUNIST VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. WEEKLY MAGAZINE PANORAMA DATED AUGUST 21 PRINTS INTERVIEW WITH CFR'S ZYGMUNT NAGORSKI BY NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT MASSIMO CONTI (COPY BEING POUCHED). INTERVIEW GIVES NAGORSKI'S VIEWS ON ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) AND ADVANTAGES OF US-PCI DIALOGUE.

2. NAGORSKI STATES THAT WHILE IN ITALY HE MET WITH A NUMBER OF PCI LEADERS. THESE CONVERSATIONS LEFT HIM WITH THE IMPRESSION OF A TRADITIONALLY MARXIST AND DOGMATIC PARTY WHICH, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN "CORRUPTED BY DEMOCRACY" AND WHICH FLOURISHES WITHIN A DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM. DESPITE ASSURANCES BY PCI REPRESENTATIVES (SEGRE AND BOFFA AMONG OTHERS), NAGORSKI EXPRESSES

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RESERVATIONS REGARDING THE FULL VALIDITY OF THE PCI'S DEMO-

CRATIC CREDENTIALS AND REAL COMMITMENT TO A WESTERN TYPE OF PLURALISTIC SOCIETY.

3. HOWEVER, NAGORSKI REITERATES HIS VIEW THAT PCI EFFORTS TO "ESTABLISH CONTACTS WITH THE US AT ALL LEVELS" SHOULD NOT BE REBUFFED. WHILE RECOGNIZING LEGALITY OF USG "REFUSAL" OF VISA TO PCI LEADER NAPOLITANO, HE CALLS IT A POLITICAL ERROR SINCE, IF US FAILS TO OPEN DIALOGUE, PCI MAY BE DRIVEN LEFTWARDS TOWARDS "EAST EUROPEAN" SOLUTIONS.

4. NAGORSKI AFFIRMS THAT THERE IS INCREASING INTEREST IN THE PCI UN US ACADEMIC CIRCLES. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE ALSO "A CERTAIN NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE CONGRESS WHO ARE READY TO ESTABLISH THE CONTACTS REQUESTED BY THE PCI. PERHAPS THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED."

5. HE EXPLAINS DIDTRUST OF THE PCI IN THE US AS STEMMING FROM A "FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN" AND PREOCCUPATION THAT, IF THE PCI CAME INTO THE GOVERNMENT, ITALY MIGHT LEAVE NATO. ASKED WHAT IS THE USE OF A DIALOGUE IF AMERICANS WON'T ACCEPT PCI ASSURANCES, NAGORSKI SAYS THAT WHILE USG WILL NOT CHANGE ITS BASIC IDEAS ABOUT PCI AS A RESULT OF A DIALOGUE, IT MIGHT BECOME MORE "FLEXIBLE". SECRETARY KISSINGER, HE SAID, HAS WELL DEFINED IDEAS ON THE PCI, BUT HE CAN BE "FLEXIBLE" AND IS VERY "REALISTIC AND PRAGMATIC". NAGORSKI SAID HE IS SURE THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT INFLUENCED OR GOVERNED BY THE PCI IS DISCUSSED WITHIN THE USG BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL CONCERN FOR CURRENT ITALIAN DEVELOPEMENTS.

6. THE NAGORSKI INTERVIEW WAS REPORTED BY A NUMBER OF PAPERS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. COVERAGE BY PCI DAILY L'UNITA AVOIDED EDITORIAL COMMENT, BUT GAVE PROMINENCE TO NAGORSKI REMARK THAT THE RISE OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN SPAIN AND ITALY AND A FRANCE GOVERNED BY A POPULAR FRONT COULD CONSTITUTE A "THIRD FORCE" IN EUROPE "LESS DEPENDENT ON THE TWO BLOCS". ROME CENTER-RIGHT DAILY IL TEMPO SHARPLY CRITICIZES IDEA OF US OPENING TO PCI ALONG LINES OF US SUPPORT FOR CENTER-LEFT IN EARLY 60'S. SOCIALIST-RADICAL PARTY ORIENTED WEEKLY L'ESPRESSO MAKES SIMILAR (BUT HOPEFUL) COMPARISON TO US SUPPORT OF CENTER-LEFT OPENING IN DESCRIBING PLAN FOR FALL

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VISIT TO US BY PCI FOREIGN POLICY EXPERT SERGIO SEGRE.

7. PUBLICITY ON NAGORSKI INTERVIEW USED BY PARA COMMUNIST PAESE SERA AND LEFTIST ROME DAILY IL MESSAGGERO TO REPLAY RUMOR STARTED AUGUST 14 BY IL MONDO ARTICLE (AND PICKED UP BY FRANCE SOIR) THAT AMBASSADOR VOLPE IS TO BE WITHDRAWN BECAUSE OF HIS ALLEGED RIGHT WING VIEWS AND INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND ITALIAN "REALITIES". CENTER-LEFT TURIN DAILY

LA STAMPS IS ONLY PAPER TODAY WHICH CARRIES EMBASSY DENIAL OF THESE RUMORS AND OUR STATEMENT THAT "THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN US POLICY TOWARDS ITALY."

8. COMMENT: SINCE THE THRUST OF THESE ARTICLES IMPLIES THAT A POLICY SHIFT TOWARDS THE PCI IS BEING CONSIDERED IN WASHINGTON, AND THAT THE EMBASSY, AND MORE SPECIFICALLY THE AMBASSADOR, ARE OUT OF PHASE WITH THESE DEVELOPMENTS, IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO PUT THE LIE TO THIS SPECULATION IS TO HAVE THE DEPARTMENT ISSUE A DENIAL BASED ON POST-JUNE 15 PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY RELATING TO ITALY. WE WOULD HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD MAKE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THERE IS NO FOUNDATION TO THE SPECULATION THAT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS CHANGED ITS POINT OF VIEW TOWARDS THE PCI BECAUSE OF RECENT POLITICAL EVENTS IN ITALY.VOLPE

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## Message Attributes

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